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Norman Cross  
Rural District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District  
during the year 1950.



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during the year 1950.

## **To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

### **STAFF.**

Medical Officer of Health ..... H. PATTINSON, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.  
Resigned 30th November 1950.

F. D. F. STEEDE, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
Commenced 5th December 1950.

Sanitary Inspector ..... G. F. TAYLOR, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
Resigned 31st January 1950.  
H. E. REEVE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
Commenced 1st February 1950

### **STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Area	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1950)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8516
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2441
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£30,459
Value of Penny Rate 31/3/1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£120

The social conditions of the District remain substantially the same, and the general level of health continues to be satisfactory.

The most serious problem at the present time facing the District is the provision of adequate housing accommodation; though the housing survey, of which mention is made later in the Sanitary Inspector's report, has not yet been completed it is manifest that a large number of persons are living in old properties which are not satisfactory, and this is aggravated by the number of families

“squatting” on Sibson Airfield. These huts are not satisfactory for human habitation and cannot be made so without very considerable expenditure which would be unreasonable in view of their temporary nature and situation. The housing resources of the District are totally inadequate to deal with the problem which it is known is giving anxiety to other Rural Districts placed in a similar predicament.

Good progress has been made with regard to the provision of water supplies, and the entire District, apart from a few outlying parts including Holme Fen, now have a piped supply.

Welcome progress has been made in providing Sewerage, though it will be some years yet before the 5 Parish Scheme comes into operation. It is unfortunate that financial considerations have forced the Council to postpone at present a sewerage scheme for the Parish of Holme, where some degree of nuisance is already being experienced.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Council for the help and encouragement they have shown me, in my first year in this appointment.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS	Birth Rate per 1000 population	20.1
STILL BIRTHS	Rate per 1000 total births	5.8
DEATHS	Death rate per 1000 population	11.4
	Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—		
	All infants per 1,000 live births	29.2
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	32.7
	Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 LiveBirths
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Stand-ardized Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Norman Cross R.D.C.	20.1	0.12	11.4	12.1	29.2
England & Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	11.6	29.8



The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	49	48	97
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	2	2	4
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .....	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases .....	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	2	—	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .....	2	5	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	—	1	1
16. Diabetes .....	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	5	5	10
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	6	2	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	—	2	2
20. Other heart disease .....	8	13	21
21. Other circulatory disease .....	1	2	3
22. Influenza .....	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia .....	2	2	4
24. Bronchitis .....	1	—	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum .....	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea .....	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis .....	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .....	2	—	2
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases .....	7	7	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	2	2	4
34. All other accidents .....	3	—	3
35. Suicide .....	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war .....	—	—	—

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **(a) Laboratory Facilities :**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

### **(b) Ambulance Facilities :**

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases the area is covered by the ambulance service of the Soke of Peterborough County Council under an agreement with Huntingdon County Council, which is the Local Health Authority responsible. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

### **(c) Nursing in the Home :**

Nursing in the district is carried on by qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

### **(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres:**

Infant Welfare work in the district is still carried out by the Fletton and District Infant and Child Welfare Association by arrangement with Huntingdon County Council, the Welfare Clinic being held at London Road, Old Fletton, every week on Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

### **YAXLEY.**

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Village Hall every 4th Friday in the month from 2-30—4 p.m.

### **ELTON.**

The Infant Welfare Centre is situated at the Highgate Hall and meets on the 2nd Thursday each month at 2-30—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 10—12.
School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	Yaxley Village Hall, Every 4th Friday 10—12.
Eyes	.....	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	.....	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	.....	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Every Monday 2—4 p.m. By Appt.
Orthopaedic	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 2nd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	.....	28 Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Women Only—Wednesday 5.30— 7 p.m. New cases and special treatment only. Friday 10—12 noon. Men Only — Monday 4—6 p.m. New cases and special treatment only. Thursday 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

**(e) Hospitals :**

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon.
- (2) General hospital services including Out-patient facilities are provided at Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity Cases at The Gables, Peterborough, or the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Surveyor's Office,

Booster Station,

Yaxley,

July, 1951.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

The statement covers the whole period, including the month of January after which I took over.

### NEW HOUSING.

(a) **By Council.** The number of houses built since 1945 is as follows:—

Up to 31/12/1948.		During 1949.		During 1950.	
Folksworth	2	Stilton	18	Orton Longueville	6
Chesterton	2	Elton	2	Stibbington	2
Orton Waterville	4	Yaxley	8	Yaxley	10
Stilton	4	Farcet	6		
Farcet	14				
Elton	2				
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals	28		34		18
				Total	80

### Temporary Dwellings:

Holmewood	11		
Sibson Camp	60		
Horsey Toll	4		
	<hr/>		
	75		Total 75

Families Accomodated 155

In course of erection at the end of 1950:

Orton Waterville	4
Yaxley	8
Elton	14
Holme	4
Alwalton	4

Tenders approved for 4 Bungalows at Holme and 8 Bungalows at Yaxley.

(b) **By Private Developers.** Only 4 houses completed during the year, i.e.

Orton Longueville	1
Stibbington	1
Chesterton	1
Glatton	1

this reflecting the general cut by the Ministry to 1 in 10 of Council Allocation, in force during the year. In view of the waiting list for private licences and the large amount of labour required and being imported into the District this figure is inadequate.

## HOUSING SURVEY.

Little progress was made with this survey owing to lack of technical assistance.

## SUMMARY OF VISITS.

I give below a summary of visits, inspections etc., I have made during the past twelve months.

Subject	Visits	Subject	Visits
Nuisances .....	23	Caravans .....	19
Infectious Diseases .....	20	Refuse Collection .....	45
Cowsheds & Dairies .....	3	Interviews .....	745
Housing Acts .....	119	Committee & Council Meetings	39
Council & Temp. Housing	501	New Buildings & Licensing .....	81
Water Supply .....	357	Knackers Yards .....	4
Rats and Mice .....	49	Disinfestation .....	23
Factories & Workshops .....	6	Miscellaneous (National Assist-	
Food .....	7	ance Act, Petroleum Acts,	
Sewers, Works & Drains .....	285	Numbering, Planning Acts,	
Civil Defence .....	3	etc.) .....	53

## PLANS.

The following plans have been deposited during the year :—

New Houses .....	1	New Bungalows .....	14
Temporary Buildings .....	7	Caravans .....	6
Agricultural Buildings .....	13	Caravan Site .....	1
Garages .....	16	Offices .....	4
Layouts for Housing Sites .....	2	Bus Shelter .....	1
Notice Boards .....	6	Food preparing premises .....	1
Alterations and Additions		Haulage Depot .....	1
to existing Buildings .....	21	Water Storage Tanks .....	2
Village Halls .....	3	Telephone Sub-Stations .....	1
Workshops .....	3	Brick Kiln .....	1

## NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	139
Abated as a result of Statutory action	1

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises .....	21	38
Accumulation of Refuse .....	25	37
Foul ditches etc. ....	5	42
Drains .....	97	136
Animals .....	12	15
Dampness .....	27	37

Slaughter Houses	.....	.....	No. licensed or registered	Nil
		.....	No. of inspections	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....		No. established	Nil
			No. of inspections	Nil

## DISINFECTION.

Cases of infectious diseases reported .....	7	No. of inspections .....	20
Rooms disinfected (a) Tuberculosis .....	5	(b) Others .....	4
Schools disinfected .....	Nil		

## CLOSETS.

No. of houses at the end of the year with W.C's	.....	.....	752
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ Pail Closets		.....	1329
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ Privy Vaults		.....	360
No. of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses		.....	22
No. of W.C.'s newly constructed for old property	.....	.....	7
No. of Privies converted to W.C.'s	.....	.....	3

ASHBINS	.....	.....	..	..	New provided	.....	83
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## WATER SUPPLY.

Contract No. 5 was almost completed, mains and services having been laid since 1948 in Stibbington, Waternewton, Holme, Denton and Caldecote, with a link along the Great North Road from Norman Cross to Kates Cabin. 2-50,000 gallon steel storage tanks were also constructed at Orton Booster Station and Keeper's Hill, Elton.

A high pressure main was laid from the Yaxley Booster Station to the Yaxley Cross Roads, serving Peterborough Road and Dovecote Lane, Yaxley, these roads having had low pressure with intermittent breaks in supply for several years.

House connections to the new mains continued in a satisfactory way, the number of new supplies connected during 1950 being as follows:—

126 Domestic supplies.  
38 New Metered supplies.  
25 Building supplies.

The Council considered the question of water supply to the Fens and other outlying areas, and the Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a scheme.

Samples taken from main piped supply	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
No. condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Samples taken from Wells	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
No. unsatisfactory	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

## HOUSING.

### Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.....	.....	.....	163
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	35
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	111

### Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	.....	21
--	-------	----

### Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

## MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Retailers' Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Total No. of inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and other Acts and Regulations relating to the production, distribution and designation of Milk came into force on 1st October, 1949, and have now been in operation a full year. The production side of the milk industry is now under the control of



the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Local Authorities having the duty of registration of milk distributors and dairies, and the enforcement of the Regulations on dairy premises other than dairy farms. The Medical Officer of Health retains certain powers in relation to all dairy premises, and some inspections have been made on his behalf.

**DISINFESTATION.**

(a) Bed Bugs.	No. of houses infested	.....	.....	.....	8
	No. of houses disinfested		.....	.....	8
(b) Rats and Mice.	No. of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	10
	No. of houses treated and cleared	.....	.....	.....	2

**SEWERAGE.**

Ministry permission was received to commence the 5 Parish Scheme (Contract No. 6) on 1st November, 1950, and Messrs. Hadsphaltic Construction Co. have made a start in Yaxley Village.

**REFUSE COLLECTION.**

The loads are increasing, and this fact coupled with the almost continuous wet weather in the latter part of the year caused some delays in the usual fortnightly collection.

Waste paper collection was stopped towards the end of 1949, as there was no market and only limited storage accommodation available for this salvaged material ; by the end of 1950, however, the needs of the re-armament programme made it clear that there would soon again be a demand for collection to be re-commenced.

The continued increase in weight of loads makes it imperative that there should be some change, either in the method of collection or by increasing the number of collections.

There is still difficulty in obtaining labour for this type of work.

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.**

This Act came into force on 31st March, 1950. A Contractor is carrying out treatments until a direct labour scheme is approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

Total No. of Factories on Register (including bakehouses)					.....	73
No. of inspections					.....	6
No. in which nuisances abated					.....	Nil
Homework					No. of outworkers	..... Nil
					No. of houses	..... Nil
Legal Proceedings					.....	Nil

## CONCLUSION.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Council for their courtesy and consideration during my first year of office, to the Medical Officer of Health and Clerk of the Council for their help and advice, and to the Staff and workmen for their co-operation.

H. ERIC REEVE,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1950.

DISEASE	TOTAL													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards			
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	2	8	15	17	8	39	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	4	5	—	2	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

During the year there was an increase both in the notifications of measles and whooping cough, this being a reflection of the general level of notifications in the Country generally.

Measles was on the whole mild, and there were no deaths from either cause.

**DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population:—

UNDER 5 YEARS		BETWEEN 5—15 YEARS.	
Number immunised	Estimated Population	Number immunised	Estimated Population
289	680	841	1062



## Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 .....	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 .....	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	14	—	—	—	2	2	—	—

The increase in the numbers of Tuberculosis is accounted for mainly by the application of new methods of diagnosis and of 10 cases discovered in the Hostel at Sibson, 7 followed a visit from the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit.

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.





